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### Proceedings of the Club.

The regular monthly meeting was held May 8, 1888, the President in the chair and 44 persons present.

Miss Kittie O. Fernie and Mrs. Theron G. Strong were elected active members.

Prof. Frederico Phillippi, Santiago, Chili, and Miss Jane H. Newell, Cambridge, Mass., were elected corresponding members.

Mr. Sterns reporting for the Catalogue Committee, stated that the work had been finished and the books distributed to all active members. He also expressed the regret of the committee at the accidental omission from the list of authorities consulted, of Mr. Jas. N. Bishop's valuable "Catalogue of Phænogamous Plants of Connecticut," an omission doubly regretted, because in addition to his published work, Mr. Bishop had by correspondence rendered efficient assistance.

Mr. Northrop reported the occurrence of a tree of *Prunus serotina*, 13 ft. 2 in. in circumference, on the road from Bridgeton to Roadstown, Salem Co., N. J., remarking that this is probably one of the largest individuals of the species at the North. He also distributed specimens of *Helonias bullata* from Bridgeton, and showed *Draba Caroliniana* from South Amboy.

Prof. Schrenk remarked on the differences between *Mentha piperita* and *M. viridis*. In the former he had found the central spike of the inflorescence invariably over-topped by the lateral ones when the plant reaches maturity. In *M. viridis* the central spike remains the longest. The leaves of the two are readily distinguishable, even from the smallest fragments, for those of *M. piperita* contain in their glandular hairs, abundant crystals of menthol, which are persistent in herbarium specimens collected sixty years ago, while the leaves of *M. viridis* contain no menthol.

Dr. Eccles reported the results of a series of experiments on various liquids as preservatives of the colors of flowers. He found that Simple Syrup gave the best results, lasting over three weeks. Glycerine preserved colors, but caused marked shrinkage.

Mr. Sterns exhibited *Saxifraga Virginiensis*, var. *pentadecandra* from the original station on New York Island, (see this number, p. 166) and requested observations on the fertilization of *Smilax*, stating that he had been unable to find any record of

insect agency. Prof. Schrenk remarked on the habit of flies visiting the flowers *S. herbacea* after the plant has been taken indoors.

Dr. Britton spoke of the introduction of *Nelumbo speciosa*, Willd., into ponds and streams in Mercer and Burlington counties, N. J., first planted by Mr. E. D. Sturtevant in a pond two miles east of Bordentown, and read extracts from a letter from Dr. C. C. Abbott as follows: The plant was introduced by Mr. Sturtevant some seven years ago and is now thoroughly established. It has been taken to various parts of Mercer and Burlington counties, and wherever the water has been deep enough to prevent the ice reaching its roots the plant has flourished. When once established it crowds out other water lilies and even *Calamus*. Cows are fond of the leaves and devour them greedily when five or six inches above water. He also distributed specimens of *Viola tenella*, Muhl, collected by Miss A. B. Rich at Bridgeton, N. J., stating that in his opinion this violet is native to America and distinct from *V. tricolor*.

Dr. Eccles spoke of the practice of using the comma after the name of a plant or animal, and thus before the author of the name, remarking that while this was the practice in the BULLETIN and had been adopted by the compilers of the new catalogue, that certain other journals and recent authors were omitting it. The President remarked that the best English authors use it.

Dr. Rusby then read the announced paper of the evening, "On Andean Fern Habitats," profusely illustrated with specimens.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECTION OF HISTOLOGY AND CRYPTOGAMIC BOTANY, May 22d.—Prof. Schrenk showed sections from the bulb of *Phajus grandifolius*, illustrating the origin of starch-grains from rod-like masses of protoplasm in the leucoplastids and stated that as the coatings nearer the outside were examined, gradually chlorophyll grains were found instead of starch. He also exhibited two excellent mounts of *Funaria hygrometrica*, (pl. m and pl. f.) the cell contents fixed by chromic acid, one per cent. solution.

Mrs. Britton exhibited twelve slides and some excellent drawings by S. E. Jelliffe of *Ulota phyllantha*, Brid, the flowers and fruit of which she had discovered in Howell's last distribution on specimens from Yaquina Bay, Oregon. The specimens are complete, showing beautifully the "brown articulate cylindrical bodies" at the tips of the leaves. The specimens are mostly old, so that only a few showed well the characters necessary for a description and drawings of the fruit, heretofore unknown, which will appear in a subsequent number of the BULLETIN.